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LANDS AND FORESTS
TECHNICAL NOTE

THE 1990 NOVA SCOTIA BOW HUNT

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Bowhunters had the opportunity to hunt deer during a bowhunting-only season from October 1 through 15/90.

This year's early season resulted in 67 registered kills, as compared to 104 registered bow kills in the 1989 early season.

Even with the early season, the bowhunting-only zone hunt in the Chignecto Game Sanctuary continues to be very popular. In 1990 264 bowhunters spent an average of 5.32 days each for a total of 1,465 hunter days in the area. There were 236 resident and 28 non-resident hunters participating this year. Tables 1, 2, and 3 show hunter days and game sightings.

Table 4 lists the 14 deer taken by bowhunters and the information collected for each. There were eight females and five males. One deer that was killed was not recovered until the next day. When it was discovered scavengers had eaten all but the hide and a few bones. Of the 14 deer taken, only one was a fawn. There were no yearlings, suggesting the poor reproduction identified among deer during this population decline.

Table 5 indicates hunting effort and deer sightings by week of the season and shows the week of the Remembrance Day holiday as the most successful one for hunting at Chignecto.

Table 6 compares participation and deer kill for the years 1969-1990 when the Chignecto bowhunt has taken place. The kill of 14 deer by 264 hunters, for a success rate of 5.3 percent, was the lowest since the start of the deer population boom in the mid-1970s.

As shown in Table 7, not only the kill, but the game sightings were down significantly in 1990. Sightings of deer were 35 percent of last year's report, moose were 40 percent, ruffed grouse 71 percent, snowshoe hare 37 percent, bobcat 13 percent and coyotes 39 percent. It is likely that the factors that led to the very poor reproductive success among our deer herd had the same effect on all wildlife populations, resulting in very low recruitment and thus reduced populations.

Figure 1 depicts the deer and moose sightings per hunter day since 1969. Figure 2 is a graph of kill per hunter and average days per hunter each year since 1969.

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Table 1. *Effort and deer sightings by residence, Chignecto 1990.*

Residence	No.	Hunter	Deer Sightings		Unk	Total	Per Day
			Days	Buck	Doe		
Resident	236	1270	218	378	176	772	0.61
Non Resident	28	195	28	77	29	134	0.69
Total	264	1465	246	455	205	906	0.62

Table 2. *Effort and game sightings, Chignecto 1990.*

Residence	No.	Hunter Days	Sightings Moose	Bear	Grouse	Hare	Bobcat	Coyote
Residence	236	1270	18	0	972	40	1	17
Non Residence	28	195	7	8	100	1	0	4
Total	264	1465	25	8	1072	41	1	21

Table 3. *Hunter days by week of the season, Chignecto 1990.*

Residence	Opening Fri-Sat	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Season
Residence	110	182	244	419	198	117	1270
Non Residence	30	36	22	66	22	19	195
Total	140	218	266	485	220	136	1465

Table 4. *Deer kill, Chignecto 1990.*

Date	Sex	Age	Weight	Points
10/26/90	F	4.5	150.0	
10/30/90	F	0.5	80.0	
11/01/90	F	2.5	125.0	
11/07/90	F	2.5	108.0	
11/09/90	F	5.5	140.0	
11/13/90	F	3.5	135.0	
11/14/90	M	4.5	180.0	10
11/14/90	**	**	**	**
11/15/90	M	2.5	138.0	7
11/15/90	M	4.5	187.0	12
11/17/90	F	2.5	120.0	
11/17/90	M	3.5	146.0	4
11/17/90	M	3.5	167.0	12
11/29/90	F	2.5	120.0	

** Carcass destroyed by scavengers/bear or coyote.

Table 5. *Hunting effort and deer sightings by week, Chignecto 1990.*

Week	Hunters	Hunter Days	Sightings Buck	Does	Unk	Total	Per Day	Kill
OFS	91	140	11	42	23	76	0.54	1
Week 1	96	218	26	96	62	184	0.84	2
Week 2	121	266	41	89	33	163	0.61	2
Week 3	150	485	124	137	44	305	0.63	8
Week 4	80	220	27	52	23	102	0.46	0
Week 5	74	136	17	39	20	76	0.56	1
Season	612	1465	246	455	205	906	0.62	14

Table 6. *Chignecto bowhunt participation, 1969-1990*

Year	Legal Days	No. Htrs.	Hunter Days	Deer Kill	Days/ Htr	Htr Days/ Kill	Kill/ Htr.%
1969	10	31	78	4	2.50	19.50	12.90
1970	10	46	147	4	3.20	36.80	8.70
1971	13	60	277	4	4.60	69.30	6.70
1972	13	44	215	1	4.90	215.00	2.30
1973	13	47	252	4	5.40	63.00	8.50
1974	13	68	305	6	4.50	50.80	8.80
1975	13	69	336	3	4.90	112.00	4.30
1976	13	61	314	5	5.10	62.80	8.20
1977	26	86	500	5	5.80	100.00	5.80
1978	26	96	548	9	5.70	60.90	9.40
1979	41	108	736	10	6.80	73.60	9.30
1980	25	125	677	26	5.40	26.04	20.80
1981	25	156	858	11	5.50	78.00	7.10
1982	26	172	985	16	5.70	61.60	9.30
1983	32	173	935	26	5.40	36.00	15.00
1984	32	225	1276	39	5.70	32.70	17.30
1985	39	302	1729	49	5.70	35.30	16.20
1986	32	330	1757	38	5.30	46.20	11.50
1987	32	323	1690	42	5.20	40.20	13.00
1988	32	302	1624	24	5.38	67.67	7.95
1989	32	289	1267	26	4.38	48.73	9.00
1990	32	264	1465	14	5.55	104.64	5.30
Total	530	3377	17971	366			
Average	24.09	153.50	816.86	16.64	5.32	49.10	10.84

Table 7. *Chignecto bowhunter sighting reports, 1969-1990*

	Sightings											
	Coyote		Deer		Moose		Ruffed Grouse		Hare		Bobcat	
Year	Total	H.D.	Total	H.D.	Total	H.D.	Total	H.D.	Total	H.D.	Total	H.D.
1969	171	2.20	24	0.31								
1970	263	1.80	13	0.09								
1971	338	1.20	34	0.12								
1972	423	2.00	11	0.05								
1973	517	2.10	5	0.02								
1974	598	2.00	42	0.14								
1975	562	1.70	64	0.19	431	1.30	126	0.40				
1976	885	2.80	63	0.20	938	3.00	267	0.90	7	0.020		
1977	1125	2.30	51	0.10	1060	2.00	924	1.80	10	0.020		
1978	1182	2.20	23	0.04	433	0.80	600	1.10	8	0.015		
1979	2023	2.70	71	0.10	461	0.60	144	0.20	6	0.008		
1980	1586	2.30	34	0.05	229	0.30	44	0.10	3	0.004		
1981	1992	2.30	64	0.07	795	0.90	157	0.20	9	0.010		
1982	1519	1.60	45	0.05	1253	1.30	267	0.30	3	0.003	2	0.002
1983	3345	3.60	67	0.07	1404	1.50	362	0.40	6	0.006	17	0.018
1984	3590	2.80	116	0.12	1899	1.50	849	0.70	11	0.008	33	0.026
1985	5933	3.40	44	0.03	1837	1.10	1134	0.70	13	0.007	11	0.006
1986	3877	2.20	67	0.04	429	0.20	741	0.40	10	0.006	13	0.007
1987	3621	2.10	50	0.03	808	0.50	481	0.30	4	0.002	58	0.034
1988	2583	1.59	63	0.04	459	0.28	331	0.20	11	0.007	51	0.031
1989	2256	1.78	61	0.05	1311	1.03	103	0.08	10	0.008	45	0.036
1990	906	0.62	25	0.02	1072	0.73	41	0.03	1	0.001	21	0.014

Figure 1. *Deer and moose sightings per hunter day, Chignecto bow hunters 1969-1990*

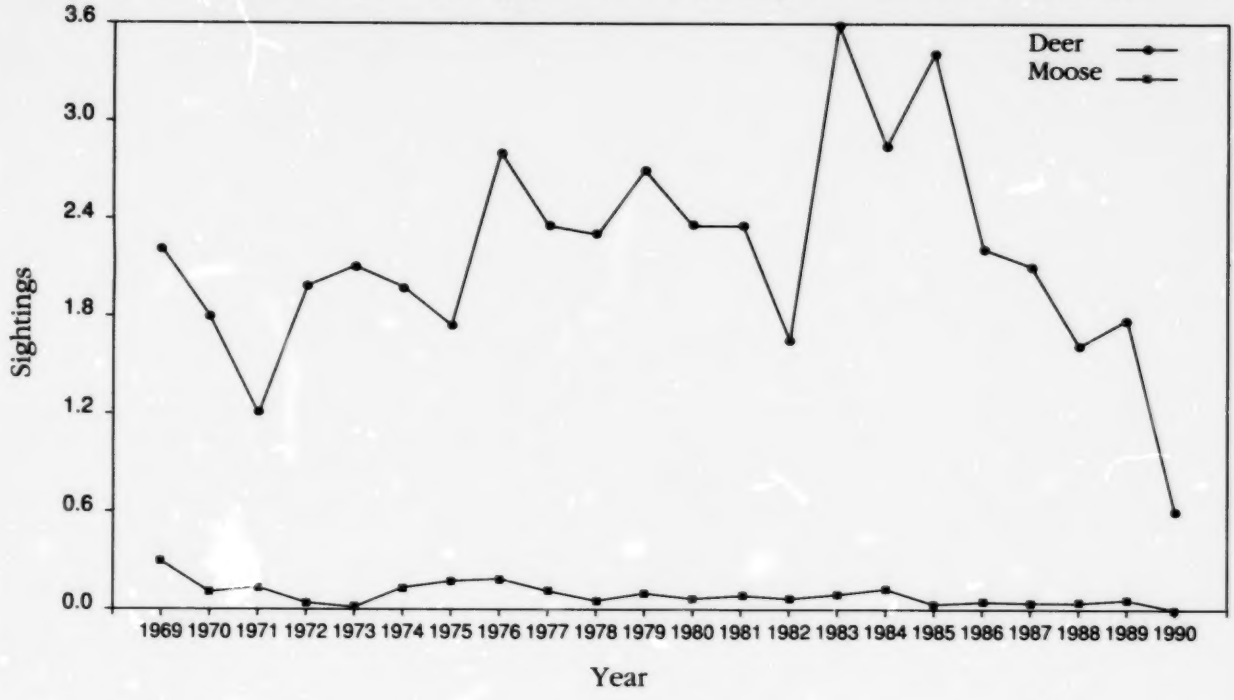

Figure 2. *Hunter success Chignecto bowhunt 1969-1990*
kill per hunter – days per hunter